



**INRCIA Grant Application FAQ**  
**October 30, 2009**

*Please note that all of the questions, below, were posed either at the informational meeting held Thursday, October 29, 2009 or via e-mail before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2009. All questions received after 4:30 p.m. on October 30, 2009 and before November 6, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. will be answered in the next weekly FAQ document.*

**Q: If my resource center decides to sub-contract with other persons or organizations, do they have to be specifically identified?**

A: Yes. Subcontractors should be clearly noted in the Budget Information (Part III) of the grant application. If utilizing sub-contractors will enhance the resource center's capacity to fulfill the purposes of the grant category, it may be beneficial to also reference subcontractors in the Grant Application Narrative (Part II), wherever it best fits.

**Q: The Indicators identified for the different grant categories are different between the Grant Notice and the Grant Application. Which is correct?**

A: The Indicators identified within the Grant Application are correct. Be sure to address all the points delineated in the Grant Application, as these are the official standards to which the grant application will be evaluated. See the rubrics posted on the IDOE's Special Education website for a better understanding of the standards by which grant applications will be evaluated (<http://www.doe.in.gov/exceptional/speced/whatsnew.html>).

**Q: Will the External Evaluators be pooled at the national or local level?**

A: External Evaluators will be pooled at the national level.

**Q: Will the External Evaluators provide comments on Grant Applications? If so, will those comments be available to the grant applicants?**

A: Although there is no guarantee that External Evaluators will provide comments for every response in an applicant's Grant Application, External Evaluators will be strongly encouraged to provide comments with their scores. After Status Notifications are disseminated, applicants may request a copy of the External Evaluator's comments. Please note that the comments will remain anonymous and no comments will be appealed.

**Q: Indicator responsibilities are included in the Request for Proposals (RFPs) listed on the Indiana Department of Administration's website as well as in these grant applications. Who is ultimately responsible for the Indicators?**

A: The RFPs processed through the IDOA (Indiana Department of Administration) seek contractors who will generate the data that are to be reported in the APR (Annual Performance Report) for the indicators identified. The products of these contracts are the data reports. In contrast, the IRCIA grants will use these data and other pieces of information to identify the degree of need, support the analysis of root causes and provide targeted activities that are likely to improve outcomes for students with special needs.

**Q: Conceptually, many of the resource center categories' responsibilities overlap. Should my organization consider this in writing our grant application?**

A: Yes. Consider the way(s) in which the resource center will collaborate with other resource centers. In fact, question c in Section II of the Grant Application Narrative asks applicants to "describe your resource center's plan to build relationships and collaborate with other resource centers..."

**Q: Because any grant award is only guaranteed through the Project Implementation and Project Year 1, should we address the full 4 years and 7 months in our application, or just the first 19 months?**

A: Applicants should address the full 4 years and 7 months in their grant applications. It is the expectation that all grant applicants will present a well-conceptualized resource center in their focus area within their Grant Application. This well-conceptualized resource center should include plans for years beyond the Project Implementation and Project Year 1.

**Q: The Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Grant Application asks for aggressive and attainable goals. Because PBS has a small research base for identified related areas such as dropout rates, in designing a PBS strategy for Indiana, how much should we depend on evidence-based practice?**

A: The indicators associated with the relevant focus areas of the grants are intended to be integral to analyses. It is the expectation that evidence-based practices become foundational to the effort, pursued when not readily available. New research on the interplay between variables and subsequent findings are intended to contribute knowledge to the growing evidence base related to each focus area.

**Q: The SPDG Grant Application has a broad scope which includes leadership and reading intervention. How will we address in our application all purposes that are included in the SPDG?**

A: Our Federal granting officers have recently instructed us to sharpen the purpose of the SPDG and have permitted us to concentrate on PBS. We have also been asked to integrate parent and community purposes from the fourth goal into the first three goals. A revised outline of the scope of the SPDG is now posted on the website.

**Q: Will IDOE post a roster of the Informational Meeting attendees on the IDOE website?**

A: Yes, IDOE will be posting a roster of the Informational Meeting attendees on the IDOE Special Education website: <http://www.doe.in.gov/exceptional/speced/whatsnew.html>. Attendee names, their organization affiliations, and e-mail addresses will be posted online. If any other applicants would like to be added to this list, in order to share their contact information as well as to be added to an IDOE

distribution list, please fill out the appropriate form on the website. All members of the distribution list will be e-mailed notifications when new documents are posted or other documents on the website are revised.

**Q: Resource centers will be responsible for conducting professional development in their focus area. Will the resource centers be expected to respond to LEA and school corrective action, as well?**

A: Both corrective action and proactive support are valued, as evidenced in the Grant Narrative requirements, Section 1: "Significance" b and c. Applications will be scored based on the capacity of the proposed center to assist in correcting identified deficiencies and prevent potential insufficiencies at the local level.

**Q: Could a school contract with a resource center to receive additional assistance, even if they are not targeted for corrective action?**

A: Applicants are free to be creative in the way they conceptualize a resource center. If an applicant would like to contract with a school, the applicant must include those plans into the applicant's grant application, as well as any additional costs that contracting with a school may entail.

**Q: What if we know that schools need a more comprehensive approach to professional development than they indicated that they wanted on the Special Education Needs Assessment Survey?**

A: In conceptualizing a competitive proposal, applicants may articulate a particular interpretation of the data and build an argument to support a specific approach to addressing the improvement needs of the schools.

**Q: The Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) gives points to applicants of minority and women owned businesses. Will the evaluation process for the INRCIA grant award points in this manner, too?**

A: No. Because the IDOE is awarding grants, as opposed to contract, the IDOE does not have to adhere to the IDOA's formal RFP process. The IDOE will be utilizing an in-house grant process for awarding grants. The grant application does ask that applicants describe the organization's process for ensuring the employment of persons who are members of groups that have traditionally been underrepresented based on race, color, national origin, gender, age and disability; however, points will not specifically be awarded to minority and women owned businesses.